

APRIL 30, 1965

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THIS MAN BROOKE

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THIS IS Gerald Brooke, as seen by colleagues and friends at home last night:

Mrs. Anna Hearder, wife of a university lecturer: "He is not the James Bond type. He is a nice young fellow and his interests are purely academic."

Miss Rosemary Honey, one of his students: "To suggest he could become involved in any subversive activity is ridiculous."

Mr. George Avis, a friend and university lecturer: "He has always been a sensible, honest and trustful teacher. Anyone teaching Russian knows there is a danger that if any trouble is caused on a Moscow visit he would not be allowed in again."

SCHOLAR

This too is Gerald Brooke:

THE BOY: Born in Sheffield an only child of a Methodist family. His father died five years ago. His mother still lives in Pearson Street.

THE STUDENT: He went to Firth Park Grammar School at Sheffield. Became a Queen's Scout. Went on to the School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies at London University, then took a diploma course at Oxford University. He spent a year in Moscow as a British Council student. He speaks four other languages.

THE TEACHER: His first job was at Hele's School, Exeter, in 1961, teaching French and Russian, singing in choir. In 1963 he became a lecturer at the L.C.C.'s Holborn College

of Law, Languages, and Commerce, giving a "crash" course in Russian to business men, school teachers, and students.

He was due to start a new job in September in the Russian department at the Bradford Institute of Technology.

THE HUSBAND: In Sheffield three years ago he married Barbara Brown. They have no children. Six months ago they moved to London.

THE WIFE: Barbara Brooke, a music lover and pianist, works as library cataloguer for the new borough of Camden.

NEIGHBOUR

THE HOME: They live in Highwood Avenue, Finchley, in a semi-detached lined with books. In a living-room yesterday a packet of chocolate biscuits stood on a table, in the kitchen a half-empty milk bottle.

Neighbour Mr. Alan Collings said: "Mr. Brooke seemed just an ordinary fellow you might expect to find living next door."

• **Mr. Greville Wynne**, freed last year by Moscow in exchange for Soviet spy Gordon Lonsdale, said on TV last night: "This morning one paper said Mr. Brooke could have been arrested because he might have sent messages from Russians in this country to Russians in the Soviet Union. This is pure speculation. But what will happen is that this poor fellow will be dragged before his interrogators and interrogated for hours purely because this appeared in a British paper."

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The beard:

Gerald Brooke, who is 6ft. tall, and broad shouldered, used to wear a dark beard. He had to take it off just before his trip, because his passport photo showed him clean-shaven. Anyway, his wife did not like the beard.

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